

Message Text

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ACTION SS-25

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FM AMEMBASSY SAIGON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 5608

C O N F I D E N T I A L SAIGON 5334

EXDIS

DEPT PASS EIHRC

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: EAID SREF VS

SUBJECT: OVERVIEW OF REFUGEE PROBLEMS (SITUATION REPORT#15)

1. AS PREVIOUSLY REPORTED, THE GVN HAS ESTABLISHED A SPECIAL TASK FORCE FOR REFUGEE PROBLEMS (STF/RP) WHICH HAS PROVIDED SENSITIVE DETAILS NOT FOR RELEASE ON ITS CURRENT PLANS, AS FOLLOWS:

(1) GVN ESTIMATES THERE ARE 30 TO 50,000 REFUGEES WHO ARE LIVING IN SAIGON WITH RELATIVES. THE GVN TASK FORCE ESTIMATE IS THAT ABOUT 1500 ADDITIONAL REFUGEES ARRIVE IN THE SAIGON AREA DAILY. HEAVY NVA PRESSURE COULD GENERATE ABOUT 500,000 ADDITIONAL REFUGEES ATTEMPTING TO MOVE TOWARD THE SAIGON METROPOLITAN AREA.

(2) IN ORDER TO MANAGE AND CONTROL A POSSIBLE REFUGEE FLOW TOWARD THE METROPOLITAN AREA, GVN AUTHORITIES ARE ESTABLISHING CHECK POINTS ON ALL HIGHWAYS SOME DISTANCE OUTSIDE SAIGON. POLICE ARE SCREENING REFUGEES AND TRANSPORTING MILITARY AND THEIR DEPENDENTS TO SPECIAL CAMPS. CIVILIAN REFUGEES ARE BEING SYSTEMATICALLY DIRECTED TO OTHER CAMPS.

(3) SELECTION OF 6 OR 7 CAMP SITES WHICH ARE TO BE SITUATED IN A RING OUTSIDE SAIGON WAS MADE ON APRIL 19. MINISTRY PUBLIC WORKS IS RESPONSIBLE FOR CONSTRUCTION OF SHELTER, STOREHOUSES, WATER SUPPLY AND SANITATION. ADEQUATE BUILDING MATERIALS EXIST IN SAIGON.

(4) EACH CAMP IS EXPECTED TO BE MANAGED BY PROJECT MANAGER NAMED BY DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER FOR RELIEF AND RESETTLEMENT WHO ALSO APPOINTED HIS PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE FOR OVERALL PROJECT TO COORDINATE

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CLOSELY WITH GENERAL-IN-CHARGE OF SIAGON DEFENSE, MAYOR OF SAIGON AND GIA DINH PROVINCE CHIEF.

(5) IF OUTER RING CAMPS MUST BE ABANDONED BECAUSE OF ENEMY PRESSURE, ANOTHER SMALLER CIRCLE OF CAMPS WILL BE READY TO RECEIVE REFUGEES. SHOULD THIS OCCUR, SCHOOLS AND OTHER INSTITUTIONS IN GREATER SAIGON AREA WILL BE ABLE TO HOUSE 200,000 REFUGEES.

(6) ON APRIL 18, GVN BEGAN CONSTRUCTION OF 3 REFUGEE CAMPS ON OUTSKIRTS OF SAIGON AS FOLLOWS: THU DUC AGRICULTURAL SCHOOL; A RUBBER PLANTATION NEAR BIEN HOA HIGHWAY; AND BA HOM, AN OPEN AREA BORDERING UPON THE KOREAN HIGHWAY.

(7) IN ORDER TO RELIEVE THE CONGESTION OF REFUGEES IN MR-3, THE FOLLOWING TRANSPORTATION AND RELOCATION OF REFUGEES WAS TO TAKE PLACE APRIL 19:

- 1,000 REFUGEES IN SAIGON TO SADEC
- 4,000 REFUGEES IN GIA DINH TO DADEC
- 5,000 REFUGEES IN GIA DINH TO VINH LONG
- 5,000 REFUGEES IN VUNG TAU TO GO CONG
- 2,000 REFUGEES IN BIEN HOA TO BAC LIEU
- 5,000 REFUGEES IN PHUOC TUY TO PHONG DINH
- 5,000 REFUGEES IN PHUOC TUY TO AN GIANG

(8) IN ADDITION TO ABOVE THE FOLLOWING PROVINCES HAVE BEEN INSTRUCTED TO PREPARE RECEPTION SHELTERS FOR 5,000 REFUGEES EACH: BA XUYEN AND DINH TUONG. THE FOLLOWING PROVINCES WILL PREPARE TO RECEIVE 20,000 EACH: SADEC, VINH LONG, PHONG DINH, AND AN GIANG.

(9) MSW IS NOW ISSUING DAILY REPORTS ON NUMBER OF PEOPLE UNDER THEIR CARE THROUGHOUT THE COUNTRY. APRIL 19 FIGURE REPORTED AS 730,900.

2. REPRESENTATIVES FROM MOH PARTICIPATE IN STF/RP MEETINGS REPORTED ABOVE. THE MINISTER OF HEALTH HAS ORGANIZED A FORMAL OFFICE FOR THE PROVISION OF HEALTH CARE TO THE REFUGEES AND WAR CASUALTIES. DR. VAN VAN CUA, DIRECTOR OF THE NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF PUBLIC HEALTH, HAS BEEN NAMED DIRECTOR OF THIS OFFICE. DR. HO THANH BA, DIRECTOR OF CURATIVE MEDICINE AND DR. PHAM QUANG TUAN, DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC HEALTH, HAVE BEEN NAMED AS DR. CUA'S DEPUTIES. THE MINISTER HAS NAMED TWO DEPUTIES

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AS HE WANTS THIS LEVEL OF RESPONSIBILITY TO REPRESENT THE MOH AT THE MSW STF/RP MEETINGS.

3. MOH HAS SENT TWO PHARMACISTS TO VUNG TAU TO BE LIAISON OFFICERS WITH THE OFFICE OF COL. LAM, THE COMMANDER OF THE CHI LINH (OLD RD CADRE) CAMP.

4. VUNG TAU HOSPITAL NOW HAS 185 BEDS WITH FIVE MOH PHYSICIANS

AND TWO FRENCH PHYSICIANS. THE EXPANDED FRENCH VOLUNTEER TEAM OF 6 PHYSICIANS AND 25 NURSES ARRIVED TODAY AND WILL BE DISPATCHED TO VUNG TAU AS SOON AS THEY MOBILIZE THEIR EQUIPMENT AND SUPPLIES.

5. THE MINISTER HAS DIRECTED THAT THE PHU QUOC ISLAND CAMPS AND THE CAMPS AT VUNG TAU SHOULD BE PROVIDED WITH A LEVEL OF HEALTH CARE SERVICES WHICH CAN BE A MODEL FOR OTHER CAMPS.

6. THE MOH HAS REPORTED THAT FROM 6,000 TO 7,000 NEW REFUGEES HAVE MOVED INTO PHUOC TUY FROM PHAN RANG.
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